Course Description: This graduate-level course examines issues related to women’s paid and unpaid work during a time of rapid integration of world markets. Students will analyze the role of government policy, unions, corporate responsibility, and social movements in raising women's wages, promoting equal opportunity, fighting discrimination in the workplace, and improving working conditions. We will also examine issues related to women’s work that does not pass through the market as women continue to perform most of the unpaid work caring for children and the elderly. Economic, political, and social aspects of women’s working lives will gain our attention, as we examine a host of important issues ranging from the work-family balance, poverty, sexual harassment, sexual orientation, conflict, women in developing countries, and the relationship between women’s employment and child health.

Evaluation: Grades are determined by two hourly exams (40%), one in-class presentation (10%), three short response papers (30%), and class participation (20%).

Hourly Exams: The first exam is scheduled for Monday Oct. 20, and the second exam is scheduled during the Final Exam period.

In-Class Presentation: You will make a 15-minute PowerPoint presentation for the class that presents the content of one of your response papers.

Short Response Papers: The papers are designed to help you practice writing, designing simple charts, discussing the findings, and following current events. The papers are to be your own original work. Be sure to cite any direct quotations that you use. You may discuss ideas with other students in the class, but the final product must be your own work. Any papers that are conspicuously similar are automatically sent to the Dean. The focus is on how what we read and talk about in class can be used in order to critically examine issues related to women and work.

Class Participation: Your contribution to class will be evaluated as follows: (1) Did you participate in a substantive way? (2) Were your comments clear, appropriate, and interactive? (3) Were your comments thoughtful, accurate, and based on the readings? (4) If your comments were not about the readings, were your opinions backed by personal experience or other types of evidence?

Course Accessibility for Disabled Students: “Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with
your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.”

**Required Software:** Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint; Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download); RADS (Rutgers Antivirus Delivery Service (free download).

**Class Format and Special Events:** The class format is a combination of lecture by the professor, class discussion, videos, student presentations, and in-class small group work. Each class meeting will have a short break.

**Required Books:** The course has two required books that are available at the campus bookstore and online:


**Class Schedule, Topics, and Reading Assignments:** All articles are available electronically on Sakai.

**Week 1:** Introduction to Women and Work: Can Women Have it All?


**Week 2:** Trends in Women’s Labor Market Participation and Status


**Week 3:** The Glass Ceiling


**Week 4:** Gender Gaps and Unions


Week 5: Explaining Gender Differences in Earnings and Employment


Week 6: Guest Speaker on Women’s Economic and Social Rights


Week 7: Hourly Exam

Week 8: Policies that Support Female Workers: Anti-Discrimination and Sexual Harassment


Week 9: Sexual Orientation Discrimination


Week 10: Women’s Work in Low-Income Countries

Blau, Winkler, and Ferber: Chapter 18. “Gender Differences around the World: Specific Countries and Regions.”


Week 11: Labor Standards and Corporate Social Responsibility


Week 12: War and Women’s Work


**Week 13: Women’s Reproductive Work and Caring Labor**


**Week 14: Women’s Employment and Child Health: International Evidence**
